

Lowest Common Multiple (LCM)

How to find the LCM of two numbers

Start with the larger number and write down a few multiples of it.

So the same with the smaller number.

At some stage you'll find the same number in each list and that's the LCM.

Example

Find the LCM of 6 and 9

Multiples of 9 are 9, **18**, 27, 36

Multiples of 6 are 6, 12, **18**

18 appears in both lists, and it's the smallest number to appear in both lists, so 18 is the LCM
Easy!

Another example - find the LCM of 5 and 8

Multiples of 8 are 8, 16, 24, 32, **40**, 48

Multiples of 5 are 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, **40**

40 is the smallest number to appear in both lists, and so 40 is the LCM
Still easy!